HOW TO REACH YOUR ADA

PHONE
1-312-440-2500
For ADA's members-only toll-free line, see your membership card

FAX
1-312-440-7494

ADA ONLINE
http://www.ada.org

211 E. Chicago Ave.,
Chicago, Ill. 60611

A FEW MORE THOUGHTS ON Y2K AND OTHER TOPICS

By now, you are aware that Y2K doesn't stand for some over-publicized race. (If not, check out the December and January CyberNews columns.)

When the calendar switches to Jan. 1, 2000, you'll have taken steps to ensure that your office computer will know that it is the beginning of the next century—not Jan. 1, 1900, all over again. In other words, plans are under way to make your office Y2K-compliant.

But what about some of the companies that affect your practice? Are they Y2K-compliant?

For instance, are the third-party payers, suppliers and labs with which you do business ready for the big change? If not, you don't want to find out Jan. 1, 2000.

And you shouldn't limit the question to those with whom you do business electronically. Even if you place orders by telephone or regular mail, chances are that the company on the other end is using computers. A supplier could have trouble keeping track of your orders if the company's computers mistake Jan. 1, 2000, for Jan. 1, 1900.

Look for updates and other Y2K information throughout the year here, online and in ADA News.

SPRING OF DISCUSSIONS

The Association’s Web site, ADA ONLINE, this month is expected to launch its first discussion group.

Restricted to ADA members only, the discussion group will touch on any topic submitted by participants. Have something to say? Visit the online discussion group.

To participate, ADA members first will be asked to accept a discussion group user’s agreement. Once you arrive at the discussion group page, click “post a message.” You will then enter a title for your topic, your name, your e-mail address and your message. When you are done composing your message, click on the “submit” button.

If you want to respond to a topic already posted to the discussion group, click on “table of contents.” After you locate a topic that grabs your interest, click on it. You then can read what others have said. If you choose to participate in the discussion, click on the “reply” button, then fill in your name, e-mail address and message. Again, when you are done composing your reply, click on the “submit” button.

In either case, you will see your own message by returning to the table of contents area. Postings will be instantaneous.

Though the Association will not monitor the discussion group for topical content, the ADA does reserve the right to remove offensive messages at the urging of discussion group participants. This sort of self-monitoring discussion group is common on the Internet.

The online discussion group also will feature a search tool that allows dentists to locate any discussion group postings that have anything to do with the keyword entered into the search field.

To visit the discussion group, go to “www.ada.org/discuss” using your Web browser. (Do not use the quotation marks.) Once there, use the discussion group to ask other dentists about anything from the latest treatments to the looming Y2K problem.

Dennis Spaeth, electronic media editor, ADA Publishing Co., Inc., spaethd@ada.org

Copyright ©1998-2001 American Dental Association. All rights reserved.